

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for removing liquid from a body of liquid, said apparatus comprising a hollow body ~~which has an arcuate bottom surface~~ having a substantially spheroidal or ovoidal shape which in use retains a pump inlet within an interior of the hollow body, ~~said~~ the hollow body having one or more openings for ingress of liquid.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the ~~hollow body has a substantially spheroidal shape~~ openings are located at a circumferential portion of mid section of the hollow body.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the hollow body ~~has a substantially ovoid shape~~ in cross section has an elliptical shape .
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the hollow body ~~in cross section has an elliptical shape~~ is nonfloatable.
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ one or more openings in the hollow body is non-floatable comprise a plurality of spaced openings, which are arranged in a row about the mid section or mid part of the hollow body which has the greatest diameter.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein ~~one or more openings in the hollow body comprise a plurality of spaced openings, which are arranged in a row about the mid section or mid part of the hollow body which has the greatest diameter~~ there is a single elongate opening in the hollow body about its central diameter.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~± 6~~ wherein ~~there is a single elongate opening in the hollow body about its central diameter~~ the opening is adjustable in width.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~7~~ 1 wherein the ~~opening is adjustable in width~~ hollow body is comprised of two or more components which ~~ere~~ are releasably attached to each other.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~± 9~~ wherein the hollow body is comprised of two ~~or more components which are releasably attached to each other~~ half or semi-components which are attached to each other about the mid section or area of greatest diameter.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein ~~the hollow body is comprised of two half or semi-components which are identical and attached to each other about the mid section or area of greatest diameter~~ one component is hingedly attached to the other component at adjacent respective ends of each component.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 9 or claim 10~~ claim 1 wherein ~~one component is hingedly attached to the other component at adjacent respective ends of each component~~ the hollow body has retaining means which in use retains the pump inlet within the hollow body.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 11 wherein ~~the hollow body has retaining means which in use retains the pump inlet within the hollow body~~ wherein the retaining means is a plurality of upright rods attached to an internal surface of the hollow body.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 12~~ claim 11 wherein the retaining means is a ~~plurality of upright rods attached to an internal surface of the hollow body~~

one of a plurality of peripheral ribs located on an internal surface of the hollow body surrounding the pump inlet in use.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 12~~ claim 1 wherein the ~~retaining means is one or a plurality of peripheral ribs located on an internal surface of the hollow body surrounding the pump inlet in use wherein the hollow body~~ is provided with an attachment means for attaching a tether.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims of claim 1 wherein the hollow body~~ is provided with an attachment means for attaching a tether which also includes the pump inlet.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ as claimed in claim 15 which also includes the pump inlet claim 15 in wherein the pump inlet includes a hollow valve casing having a non-return valve or check valve.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 16~~ claim 15 wherein the pump inlet ~~includes a hollow valve casing having a non-return valve or check valve use is in~~ use is in flow communication with a pump located externally of the body of liquid.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 16 or 17~~ claim 15 wherein the pump inlet ~~in use is in flow communication with a pump located externally of the body of liquid~~ is connectable to the pump by a hose.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims 16, 17 or 18~~ claim 18 wherein the pump inlet ~~is connectable to the pump by a hose~~ is pivotally attached to the hollow body.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 19~~ claim 17 wherein the ~~hose is pivotally attached to the hollow body~~ pump is located on dry land or a pontoon or raft structure.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed ~~in any one of claims 18, 19 or 20~~ in claim 18 wherein the ~~pump is located on dry land or a pontoon or raft structure~~ hollow body is provided with one or a plurality of hose apertures.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~as claimed in any one of claims 19, 20 or 21~~ claim 1 wherein ~~the hollow body is provided with one or a plurality of hose apertures~~ preceding claim wherein the pump inlet is protected by a strainer or gauze to prevent particulate matter entering the pump inlet.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of any preceding claim wherein the pump inlet is protected by a strainer or gauze to prevent particulate matter entering the pump inlet~~ An apparatus for removing liquid from a body of water, said apparatus comprising a hollow body which in use retains a pump inlet within the hollow body, the hollow body having one or more openings for ingress of liquid and comprising at least two components releasably attached to each other, wherein the one or more openings are located at a junction between said at least two components.